

Science, Service, Stewardship



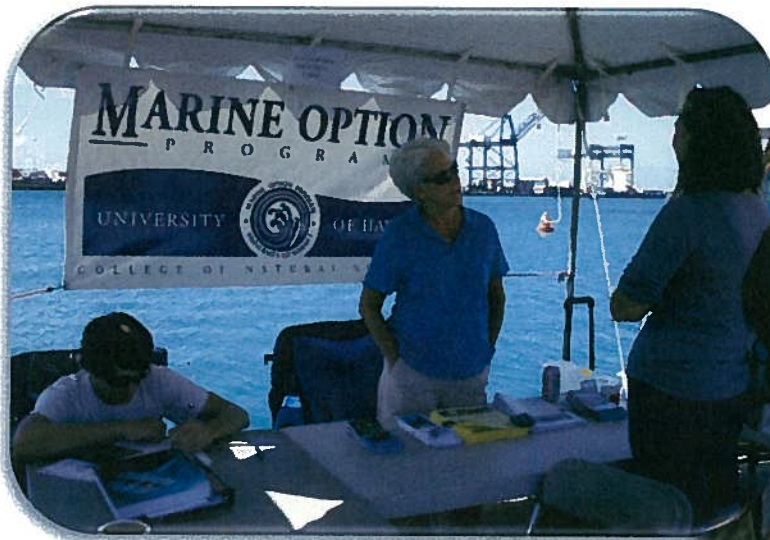
NOAA

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

**PACIFIC ISLANDS
REGIONAL OFFICE
GRANTS PROGRAM**

**ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2010**





2010 Hawaii Seafood & Fishing Festival



FY2010 HIGHLIGHTS OF PIRO GRANT ACTIVITIES

The State, Federal and Constituent Programs Office

- **Partnered with 45 Agencies and Organizations (compared to 33 in FY 2009) to Further NOAA's Mission through Grants and Cooperative Agreements;**
- **Processed 87 Funding Actions (compared to 54 in FY2009);**
- **Provided \$15,035,269 to Regional Constituents; and**
- **Increased Capacity of Program with two training level program officers.**



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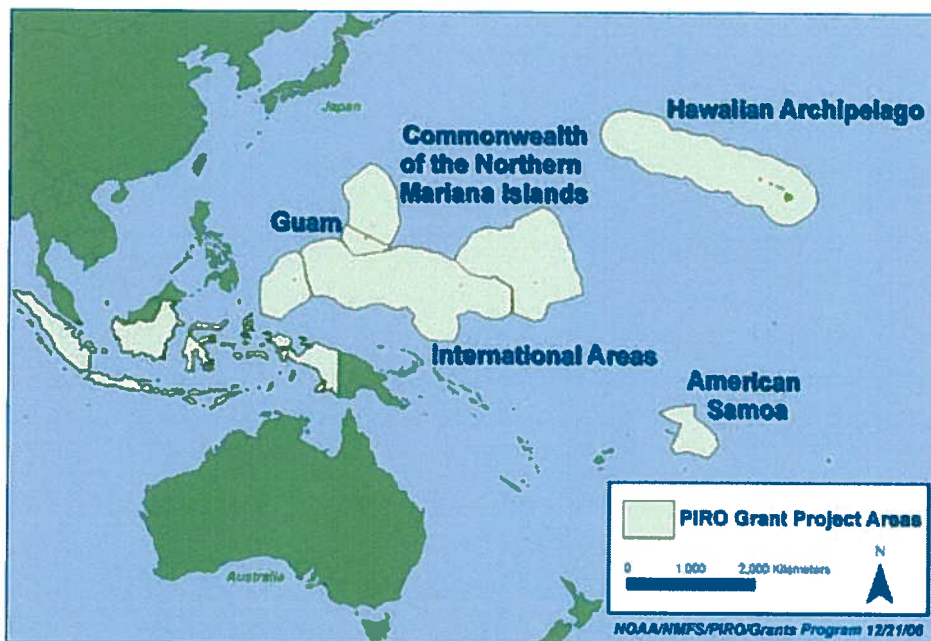
INTRODUCTION

THE STATE, FEDERAL AND CONSTITUENT PROGRAMS OFFICE

The NOAA Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) is responsible for the conservation, development and management of marine resources in the U.S. Territorial Sea and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) throughout the Pacific including Hawaii, American Samoa, the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The State, Federal and Constituent Programs Office administers a broad range of financial assistance and program partnership activities directed at supporting the core mission of NOAA Fisheries Service.

The State, Federal and Constituent Programs Office is located at the Pacific Islands Regional Office in Honolulu, Hawaii. Federal Program Officers (FPOs) ensure the timely processing of grants and cooperative agreements, from the initial solicitation through post award management. Technical assistance is provided by staff from both the PIRO and the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC). FPOs work closely with the NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD), technical monitors and grant recipients throughout the award to facilitate the successful completion of project objectives.

The State, Federal and Constituent Programs Office supports the NOAA Fisheries Service mission through both competitive and noncompetitive grants and cooperative agreements. Grant programs funded through PIRO during fiscal year 2010 include: Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, Saltonstall-Kennedy Act, Hawaii Seafood Program, Native Fishery Observer Program, marine turtle management projects, marine mammal management projects, Western Pacific Demonstration Projects, Marine National Monument Program, habitat conservation projects, marine education and training projects, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, Cooperative Institute Program, and miscellaneous other projects that meet criteria under the 2010 Broad Agency Announcement.



INTERJURISDICTIONAL FISHERIES ACT OF 1986 (CFDA 11.407)

The Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 assists States in managing interjurisdictional fisheries resources. Apportionment to States is based on average value and volume of raw fish landed by domestic commercial fishermen. The data obtained is the principle source of information and analysis of fisheries activities and management options used to address federal requirements for Fisheries Management plans under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries. In 2010 PIRO funded three grants totaling \$180,517.



- 1) American Samoa Government Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, “American Samoa Resources Assessment and Monitoring Program for Interjurisdictional Fisheries” - \$96,651
- 2) Government of Guam’s Bureau of Statistics and Plans, “Data Collection and Entry in the Management of Guam’s Interjurisdictional Fishery Resources” - \$12,276
- 3) State of Hawaii’s Division of Aquatic Resources, “Enhance and Improve Development of the Commercial Fisheries Reporting System for the State of Hawaii” - \$71,590

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM, SALTONSTALL-KENNEDY GRANT PROGRAM (CFDA 11.427)

The Saltonstall-Kennedy Act (15 U.S.C. §713c-3, as amended) authorizes the Secretary to provide federal assistance for fisheries research and development programs. Two grants totaling \$327,699 in federal funds were awarded under the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program within the Pacific Islands Region in FY 2010. Kona Blue Water Farms, LLC will be examining novel protein sources as a substitute for fishmeal diets of Kona Kampachi and The Pacific Islands Fisheries group is looking to collect data and add to the information available on the biology of the bonefish complex in Hawaii.



- 1) Kona Blue Water Farms, LLC, “Fishmeal Replacement” - \$242,889
- 2) The Pacific Islands Fisheries Group (PIFG), “Oio Tagging Project” - \$84,810

MARINE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In early 2007 the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act was amended to include §305 (j) which provides guidance on the development of a marine education and training program. Since, various programs have evolved from the language included in section 305(j). In 2010, PIRO funded a variety of marine education and training projects using one of the three funding mechanisms referenced below.

Marine Education and Training Mini-Grant Program

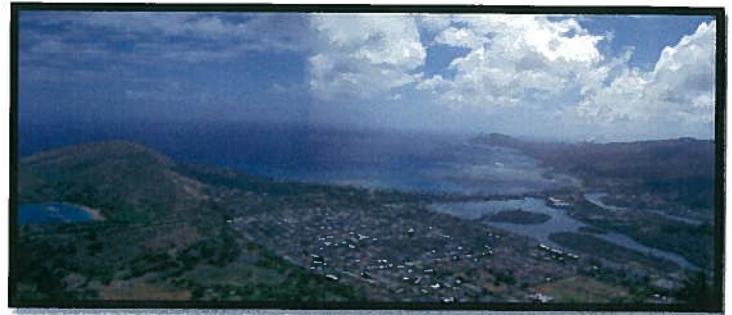


The Pacific Islands Region Marine Education and Training Mini-Grant Program, through an annual federal funding solicitation and competitive review and selection process, aims to improve communication, education, and training on marine resource issues throughout the region and increase scientific education for marine-related professions among coastal community residents, including indigenous Pacific islanders, Native Hawaiians, Alaskan Natives, and other underrepresented groups in the region. In 2010 the PIRO competitively funded 8 one-year projects through this competition, awarding a total of \$128,992.

- 1) Oceanic Institute, “Aquaculture Outreach & Education” - \$14,950
- 2) Paepae o Heeia, “Hui Malama Loko I’a” - \$14,900
- 3) Kona Community Cultural and Educational Foundation, Inc., “Bluewater Education Program” - \$15,000
- 4) Micronesian Archeological Research Service, “Traditional Fishing in Guam” - \$25,000
- 5) Pacific Marine Resources Institute, “CNMI Heritage Awareness Diving Seminar Training” - \$14,810
- 6) Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center, “Maunalua Fishpond Education Project” - \$15,000
- 7) University of Hawaii, “Reef Watch Waikiki” - \$14,485
- 8) University of Hawaii, “Distance Learning at American Samoa Community College” - \$14,847

Unallied Industry Projects – (Non-Competitive)

To provide grants and cooperative agreements for 1) biological, economic, sociological, public policy, and other research and administration projects to benefit U.S. fisheries industries and contribute to the economic and social welfare of the Nation; 2) to award grants and cooperative agreements to develop innovative approaches and methods for ensuring the safety, quality and integrity of U.S. fishery products; 3) to provide funds to the five States bordering the Gulf of Mexico, for projects or other measures designed to alleviate the long-term effects of disasters on the Gulf's fishery resources and associated habitat; and 4) to support the implementation of community-based demonstration projects



in the U.S. western Pacific that promote the development of fishery-related industries and the economic self-sufficiency of native Pacific islanders and communities. In 2010 PIRO awarded 3 discretionary grants and cooperative agreements to 4 organizations totaling \$99,525.

- 1) Olosega Village Council of Chiefs, American Samoa, "Multipurpose Fishing Vessel" - \$65,000
- 2) Tri-Isle/Malama Maunaloa, "Maunaloa Bay User Survey" - \$15,000
- 3) Tri-Isle/Malama Maunaloa, "Maunaloa Heritage Festival" - \$19,525

Broad Agency Announcement (Competitive)

The Broad Agency Announcement is a NOAA wide notice and request for proposals for special projects and program associated with NOAA's strategic plan and mission goals. The BAA is a mechanism to encourage research, education and outreach, innovative projects, or sponsorships that are not addressed through NOAA's competitive discretionary programs. In 2010 PIRO awarded 13 grants, totaling \$814,357 in federal assistance funding.

After years of budget difficulties the future of the University of Hawaii Marine Option Program appeared to be in jeopardy. NOAA recognized the value and potential of MOP as a mechanism for students who wish to pursue meaningful employment in marine related professions. By way of a \$225,189 grant, NOAA Fisheries intends to provide both mentorship and volunteer opportunities to students so they will have unique hands on experiences in both the science and management of marine resources. MOP offers a

unique opportunity for students who have an interest in ocean and aquatic resources and offers high level training opportunities for developing scientists in the Pacific Islands Region. Established in 1971, the University of Hawaii MOP has provided over 10,000 undergraduate students experiential, marine-oriented opportunities in all majors at every UH Campus. Since its inception, MOP has served as a "feeder" into the marine science professions and currently, over 40 graduates of the program are employed by NOAA. 203 students are currently enrolled in the program.



- 1) KUPU, "Hawaii Youth Conservation Corp" - \$100,000 (\$50,000 funded by PIRO)
- 2) University of Hawaii, "Marine Option Program" - \$225,189
- 3) Hawaii Pacific University, "Lab Support" - \$29,946
- 4) Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, "2010 Grants Forum" - \$12,500
- 5) University of Hawaii Sea Grant Extension Program, "Angler-based Tagging Program" - \$30,000
- 6) University of Hawaii Sea Grant Extension Program, "Pacific Islander Capacity Building" - \$59,352
- 7) Kona Blue Water Farms, Inc., "Giant Grouper Grow-out Refinements" - \$95,900
- 8) University of Guam, "Guam 4H Youth Development Program" - \$25,000

- 9) Coral Reef Alliance, "Support for the Kahekili Herbivore Fisheries Management Area" - \$25,000
- 10) Hawaii Academy of Science, "2010 Hawaii Youth Science Fair" - \$50,000
- 11) University of Hawaii, "HIMB Fellowship" - \$41,507
- 12) University of Hawaii, "Aquaponics Workshop 2010" - \$19,963
- 13) University of Hawaii, "Online Training in Fisheries and Aquaculture" - \$150,000

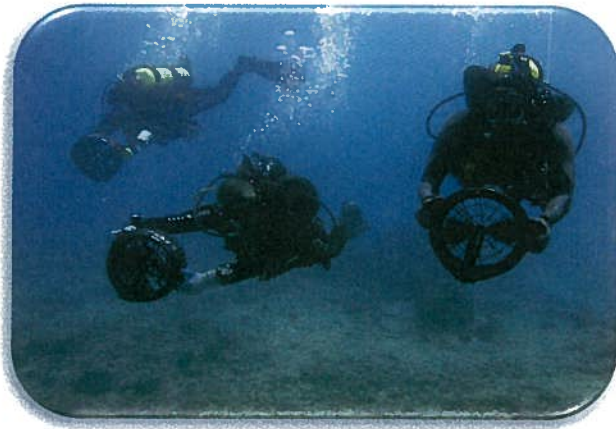
Internal Actions

Two additional awards totaling \$114,530 were made under the Western Pacific Regional Marine Education and Training:

There is currently a distinct lack of higher level training opportunities for developing scientists in the near shore marine resource management in the Pacific Islands Region requires a specialized set of skills that is not typically available within the pool of developing scientists in the area. As a result NOAA Awarded the NOAA PIRO Restoration Center and Habitat Conservation Division \$59,530 to provide an internship at PIRO with advanced training to developing young scientists with local ecological knowledge in Hawaii. Giving young developing scientists the necessary technical skills to conduct effective resource evaluation and management will provide a pool of trained

professionals that NOAA or partner agencies can draw from when hiring the next generation of scientists and managers.

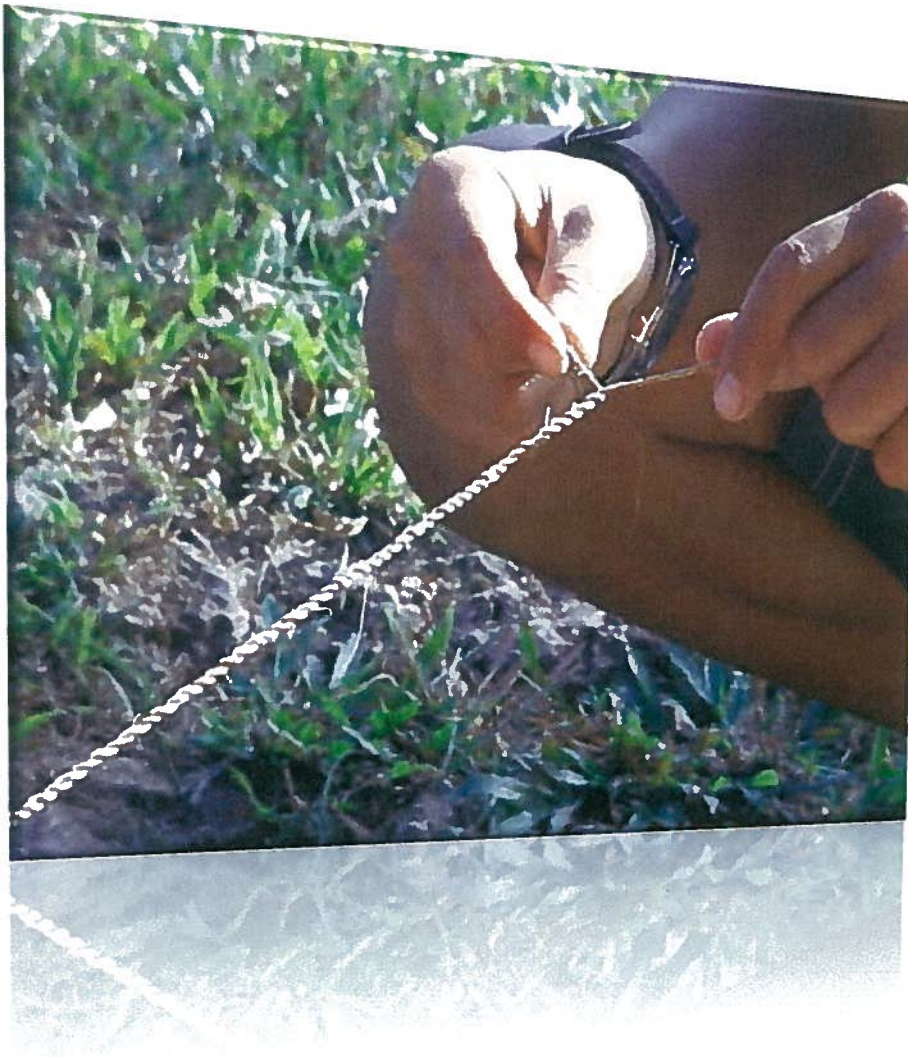
By providing talented local developing scientists with higher level training opportunities PIRO will be fulfilling a component of its program goals to include marine science and technology education and training programs focused on preparing community residents for employment in marine related professions, including marine resource conservation and management, marine science, marine technology, and maritime operations.



- 1) NOAA PIRO Restoration Center and Habitat Conservation Division - \$59,530

NOAA PIRO processed an award for \$55,000 Coastal America's Pacific Islands Regional Implementation Team that follows up on past efforts to highlight the value of Traditional Ecological Knowledge as a tool in understanding cause and effect linkages in changes to our environment and shaping appropriate responses to such events. This included 2 projects; 1. The Restoration of Riparian Waterways and Coastal Wetlands Communities Supporting Endemic Populations of Diadromous Fish and *Kalo* and 2. Collaboration with the Waikiki Aquarium Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) in the Design and Fabrication of an Interactive Exhibit and Materials Supporting Education and Outreach Programs for Environmental and Ocean Literacy.

- 2) Coastal America, Pacific Islands Region - \$55,000



WESTERN PACIFIC DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Public Law 104-297 (16 U.S.C. 1855) authorizes grants for Western Pacific Demonstration Projects that foster and promote the involvement of western Pacific communities in the western Pacific. In 2010 the PIRO funded 5 one-year projects, awarding a total of \$474,161 in federal funds to the Pacific Islands Region.

- 1) University of Guam, "Reviving, Demonstrating, and Teaching Chamorro Fishing Techniques" - \$92,013
- 2) Guam Organization of Saltwater Anglers, "ADA Compliant Fishing Platform" - \$158,674
- 3) University of Hawaii Sea Grant, "Improve Communication Networks among Pacific Islander Groups" - \$74,474
- 4) Molokai Community Service Council, "Molokai Fishing "Auwana" -\$24,000
- 5) Alu Like, Inc., "Restoration of the Loko Ea Fishpond" - \$125,000





HAWAII SEAFOOD PROGRAM

The Hawaii Seafood Program is an effort to help strengthen the economic viability of Hawaii's fishing and seafood industry through activities that promote Hawaii fisheries as high quality and safe domestic seafood produced by a responsible and well-managed fishery. In 2010 PIRO funded 4 projects totaling \$1,290,624. These projects range from research to outreach and education.

- 1) University of Hawaii, Kapiolani Community College, "Healthy Seafood Hawaii" - \$233,313
- 2) Hawaii Seafood Council, "Hawaii Seafood Promotion Project" - \$600,000
- 3) University of Hawaii, Sea Grant, "Addressing Bottlenecks to the Development of the Bivalve Industry" - \$207,311
- 4) University of North Dakota, "Selenium Health Initiative Program Phase II" - \$250,000

FISCAL YEAR 2010 NATIVE FISHERY OBERSERVER PROGRAM

PIRO continues to support the Alu Like Native Fishery Observer Orientation and Preparatory Training Program. In 2010 PIRO awarded \$550,000 to Alu Like, Inc., for the primary purpose of recruiting and training native Pacific Islanders and Native Americans for employment as Fishery Observers in the Hawaii Fishery and those Fisheries recognized throughout the Western Pacific by the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS). Components of this project include recruitment, screening and assessment, orientation, and a preparatory training program. This provides native recruits with the practical knowledge and fundamental technical skills needed to successfully pass the NMFS formal Observer Training Class and become certified Fishery Observers.



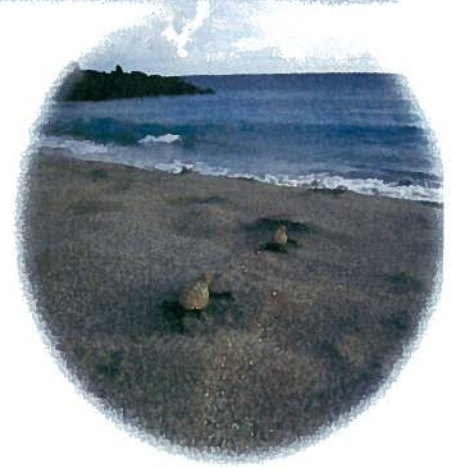
UNALLIED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS (11.454)

Projects provide economic, sociological, public policy, and other information needed by Federal and State natural resource administrators for conserving and managing fishery resources and protected species and their environment in Federal, State, and U.S. territorial waters. Information derived from project studies may consist of econometric data, user profiles, sociological case studies, policy and systems analyses, and other knowledge, and is used in such decisions as resource allocations, total and zonal harvest determinations, and initial apportionment of harvesting rights under controlled access management regimes. In 2010 PIRO provided discretionary grant awards to 18 grants and cooperative agreements, totaling \$997,769 in federal funds. PIRO's Protected Resources Division issued 14 grant awards; the Habitat Conservation Division issued 1 grant award to the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife; the Federal and State Constituent Services Program issued 2 awards; and the International Fisheries Division issued 1 grant award.

Protected Resources Division – Marine Turtle Program

The Pacific Islands Region Marine Turtle Program supports specific programmatic activities for conservation, protection, or management of listed sea turtle species either occurring within the Pacific Islands Region (PIR) or those that have documented linkages to the PIR, such as turtles that may originate from areas outside the U.S. jurisdiction but migrate through or forage within the PIR or may interact with PIR fisheries managed by NOAA/NMFS. In 2010 PIRO awarded 11 grants and cooperative agreements, totaling \$722,785.

- 1) World Turtle Trust, "Hawaii Island Hawksbill Ed & Conservation Project" - \$80,000
- 2) Guam Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources, "Guam Sea Turtle Recovery Program" - \$20,000
- 3) CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, "Building Capacity for the CNMI Sea Turtle Conservation Program" - \$75,000
- 4) Malama Na Honu, "Educational Outreach and Volunteer Safety Program" - \$20,000
- 5) University of Hawaii, "Pu'u honua: Ensuring a Safe Place for Honu in Hawaii" - \$11,257



- 6) World Wildlife Fund – Vietnam, “Development of Vietnam Observer Program in Support of the WCPFC” - \$99,256
- 7) Oceanic Society, “Ulithi Turtle Conservation Program” - \$122,000
- 8) American Museum of Natural History, “Sea Turtles of Palmyra Atoll” - \$79,680
- 9) Marine Research Foundation, “Introducing Turtle Excluder Devices in the Shrimp Fisheries of Sabah, Malaysia” - \$44,800
- 10) American Samoa Government, Division of Marine and Wildlife Resource, “Marine Turtle Conservation Program” - \$54,567
- 11) Propeninsula, “Initiative for the Conservation of the North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle” - \$116,225

Protected Resources Division - Marine Mammal, Cetacean, and Species of Concern Programs



The Pacific Islands Regional Office Hawaiian Monk Seal and Marine Mammal Response Program supports specific programmatic activities related to promoting the recovery of endangered Hawaiian monk seals and supporting response to marine mammal strandings throughout the main Hawaiian Islands. In 2010 PIRO awarded 6 grants and cooperative agreements, totaling \$285,510 in federal funds.

Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery and Marine Mammal Response Programs

- 12) Hawaiian Monk Seal Response Team Oahu, “In Support of NOAA’s Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Plan” - \$74,070
- 13) Renate Seldon, “We are Hawaii Film Project” - \$36,370
- 14) University of Hawaii at Hilo, “Support for the Monk Seal and Cetacean Stranding Response Program” - \$66,827
- 15) Molokai Community Service Council, “Molokai Community Liaison” - \$39,000

Cetacean Program

- 16) Duke University, “Augmenting Studies of the Effects of Humans Interactions on Spinner Dolphins in Resting Bays in Hawaii” - \$35,000

The Species of Concern Program

- 17) University of Hawaii, “Waikiki Aquarium Species of Concern, *Lingula Reevei*” - \$34,243

International Fisheries - 2010 Cook Islands Swordfish Tagging and Training Project

Through the PIRO International Fisheries Program an award was provided to the Cook Islands Ministry of Marine Resources for \$39,942 for the second phase of its swordfish tagging and training project. This project aims to improve the Cook Islands capacity and contribution in scientific research efforts towards determining stock structure characteristics of swordfish within the south-central Pacific region, by tagging swordfish with pop-up,



Habitat Conservation Program

The goal of the Habitat Conservation Division at PIRO is to conserve, protect, and restore marine habitat and coastal ecosystems in the Pacific Islands Region. In 2010, PIRO awarded 3 grants and cooperative agreements, totaling \$152,290 in federal funds.

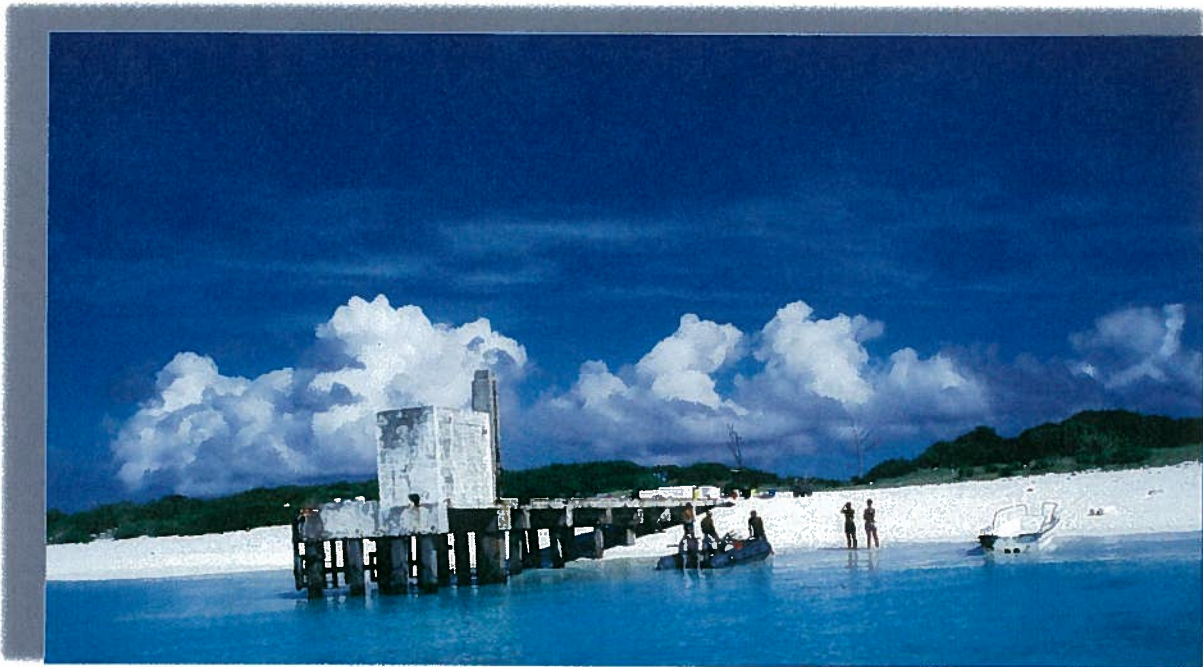
- 1) Oahu RC&D/Malama Hawaii, "Best Practices Tool Kit" - \$38,890
- 2) American Samoa Government, "Connectivity between MPA sites and American Samoa" - \$26,800
- 3) University of Hawaii, "Bottomfish Habitat" - \$86,600

Marine Sanctuaries Program

The Marine Sanctuaries Program within NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office functions to support the management objectives of the three Marine National Monuments (MNM) - - Marianas Trench MNM, Rose Atoll MNM, and Pacific Remote Islands MNM. In 2010 PIRO award 3 grants and cooperative agreements, totaling \$469,657 in federal funds.

- 1) American Samoa Government, "Rose Atoll Cultural Visit" - \$100,000
- 2) Marine Conservation Biology Institute, "Managing Remote Marine Protected Areas – the Pacific Islands Marine National Monument" – \$269,657

An additional award was made to Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife for \$100,000 to support the Kure Atoll Ecological Research Field Station and provide coordination between the agencies conducting marine related research, monitoring and restoration throughout the atoll, and removal of marine debris from the surrounding waters.



WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (11.441)

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC) prepares, monitors and revises fishery management plans and data collection programs for domestic and foreign fishing within the 200-mile U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Western and Central Pacific. This is done with approval and implementation by the Secretary of Commerce who has stewardship responsibility for living marine resources in the EEZ under the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA). This program benefits commercial and recreational fishing enterprises in the EEZ. Foreign fishing enterprises may also benefit from this program if authorized to conduct fishing operations. U.S. consumers may benefit as a result of availability of seafood.

WPFMC was provided a 4-year Administrative Cooperative agreement. This agreement provides the mechanism through which funds may be provided to WPFMC and managed for the various fisheries management projects assigned to WPFMC as defined in the MSRA. In 2010, 14 partial funding actions were processed for this Cooperative Agreement, totaling \$4,005,923 in federal funds.

- 1) Marine Monument Grant - \$150,000
- 2) Annual Catch Limits Implementation - \$188,400
- 3) Annual Catch Limits Implementation - \$470,529
- 4) National Environmental Policy Act - \$116,339
- 5) Regulatory Streamlining Process - \$93,047
- 6) Council Base Admin - \$2,174,785
- 7) Local Access Priviledge Program - \$117,632
- 8) Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review Stipends - \$58,816
- 9) Peer Review - \$149,850
- 10) Community Development - \$92,525
- 11) WPacFIN - \$18,000
- 12) Capitol Hill Oceans Week - \$63,000
- 13) WCPFC Meeting - \$293,500
- 14) Mobile Communications Package - \$19,500

The Protected Species Conservation and Management Program aims to address fisheries interactions with protected species, and has achieved, through WPFMC's efforts significant reductions in sea turtle and seabird interactions in the Hawaii-based longline fishery through the adoption of various mitigation technologies. WPFMC has also supported conservation projects at nesting beaches and foraging grounds for North Pacific loggerhead turtles and the Western Pacific leatherback turtles, bot of which are high priority subpopulations due to historically high interactions with Hawaii-based fisheries. In 2010, 2 partial funding actions were process for this Cooperative Agreement, totaling \$2,100,000.

- 15) Marine Mammals - \$100,000
- 16) Marine Turtles - \$2,000,000

In accordance with the Magnuson-Steven Act (Section 204(7)), the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Funds shall be made available to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council to implement projects consistent with the Marine Conservation Plans (MCPs) of the Western Pacific Region. The following sections relate to American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii and the Pacific Remote Island Areas, respectively.

FY2010 funds will be used to assist DMWR in the construction of boat ramps in Leone Village and Lyons Park area in Tafuna. These locations were identified through public meetings (AS REAC April 2010) and discussions with DMWR and selected for their proximity to fishing grounds, nearby populations, and deep channels. Funds totaling \$883,444 were awarded in FY10.



JOINT INSTITUTE OF MARINE AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

The Pacific Islands Regional Office Grants Program supported 3 initiatives under the Cooperative Institute Program through the Joint Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR). A total of \$839,779 will be used to maintain the technical support for the Pacific Islands Regional Office programs. The JIMAR initiatives include:

- 1) Observer Program Initiative - \$427,624
- 2) Protected Resources Environmental Compliance - \$103,330
- 3) Sustainable Fisheries Initiative - \$308,825



PACIFIC REGION GRANTS COOPERATIVE

The Pacific Region Grants Cooperative (PRGC) is a group of NOAA Grants and Cooperative Agreements programs that work to pool resources and expertise to build local capacity for innovative grants from the Pacific Islands, improve grantee accountability and fiscal management, and collaborate on federal grant administration. The PRGC consists of representatives from National Marine Fisheries Service, National Ocean Service, and Ocean and Atmospheric Research. In Fiscal Year 2010, the PRGC organizations combined funds to contract and organize several grantee workshops and develop grantee tools.

A series of 8 NOAA Information & Proposal Writing Workshops were held throughout the state in 2010. Each workshop will provided information on how to write a competitive grant application as well as provided specific information on current and upcoming NOAA funding opportunities. Participants were provided a grant-writing workbook to take them through the step by step preparation of future grant applications. PRGC also set up displays at several events including the 2010 Hawaii Conservation Conference and presentations of NOAA grant opportunities at different forums including the 2010 Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement Annual Native Hawaiian Convention. Furthermore, grant opportunity advertisements were placed in fishing publications in the Western Pacific region that provided basic information on grant opportunities available from the NOAA PRGC line offices.

The Pacific Islands Regional Office produced a Pacific Region Grants Cooperative Grants Welcome Packet. This product consists of a book and compact disk compiling references and information on post award management. Each new award provided by PRGC line offices in Fiscal Year 2010 will receive one of these welcome it is expected to lead to increased grants management capacity and compliance.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS

In FY 2010, PIRO Grants Program processed 87 actions totaling \$15,035,269 to Regional Constituents to further NOAA's Mission through Grants and Cooperative. Additional funds were utilized by the PIRO Grants Program for capacity building workshops with the Pacific Region Grants Cooperative. Recipients included 45 agencies and organizations from Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Continental United States, and various international locale.

Capacity for the Grants Program was built with the hiring of 2 new Federal Program Officers at the training level who processed grants and are in the process of helping facilitate successful grants. With the increased capacity, working more closely with the constituents was a big goal of the program and was accomplished by communicating with the grantees, going out to the public and extensive site visits including site visits to the three Territories. It was an opportunity to establishing relationships with the fisheries stakeholders, visit some of PIRO's current and pre-award grants, find out funding gaps and grant needs of the community, and share some of the upcoming grant opportunities that PIRO will be announcing.

FY11 efforts will continue to focus on capacity building, working with communities to develop innovative projects, implementing the newly established collaborative Marine Education and Training Program, instituting new grant competitions and furthering the NOAA Fisheries mission to provide stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management.



Scott W.S. Bloom, Jason Leonard and Tia Brown,
PIRO FPOs